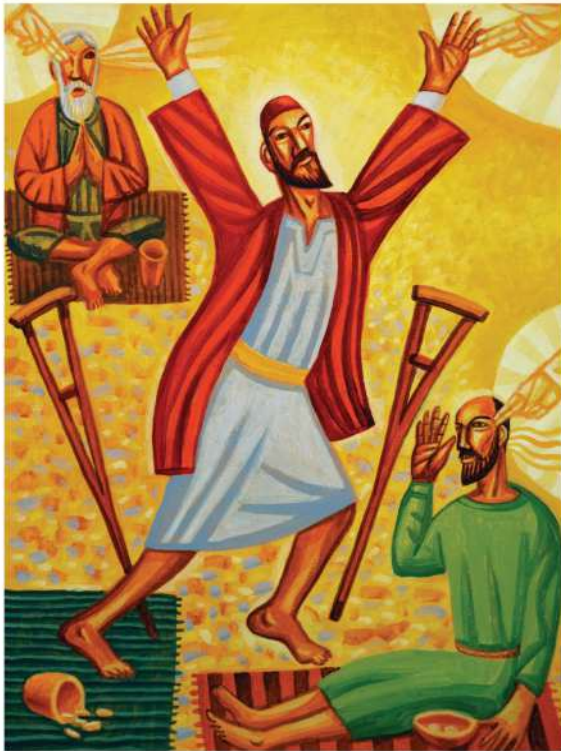


# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Rejoicing in the Lord

Gracious and loving God,  
you are the source of all hope,  
Embed your grace into our hard hearts,  
and guide us to rejoice on this day.  
Help us to do your will  
as we repent of our willful ways.  
May our deaf ears hear  
the wisdom of Scripture  
as we joyfully await the Lord's coming.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**December 14, 2025**

**Be Strong, Fear Not**

*Today's readings: Isaiah 35:1–6a; Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11.* From the rose vestment the priest may wear, to the depiction of joy in the prayers and readings, the Advent theme of rejoicing permeates the liturgy on the Third Sunday of Advent. The day is called Gaudete Sunday, “gaudete” coming from the Latin word *gaudere*, “to rejoice.” We hear the word *rejoice* in the entrance antiphon: “Rejoice in the Lord always,” and the word *joy* in the collect, or opening prayer. The reading from Isaiah portrays this joy, telling of the desert and the parched land rejoicing and a time when the eyes of the blind will be opened, the lame will leap, and the mute will sing.

Isaiah predicts salvation and God's victory over sickness and evil. Our “Thanks be to God” after the first reading should be emphatic, because wonderful things await us. Psalm 146 offers praise and hope as it tells how the Lord sets captives free, protects strangers, and thwarts the wicked. At this halfway point in Advent, the Letter of St. James tells us to be patient “until the coming of the Lord.”

For your Advent prayer this week, reflect on the reading from St. James, reading it in the morning or before a meal. St. James tells us not to judge another and to look to the prophets as an example of hardship and patience. The Scripture will help you center on the meaning of Advent.

St. John Baptist de La Salle  
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Mother of Sorrows  
4202 Old William Penn Highway  
Murrysville, PA 15668  
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Saturday anticipated Mass 4:00 PM  
Sunday Mass 11:00 AM

Sunday Mass 9:00 AM

Saturday anticipated Mass 4:30 PM  
Sunday Masses 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM & 6:00 PM

**Each a parish of the Diocese of Greensburg**

**+**

**Each a Pennsylvania Charitable Trust**

## Sunday, Dec 14, 2025

### Examine the evidence

When John the Baptist sends his disciples to Jesus to ask if he is the Messiah, Jesus doesn't give them a direct answer but suggests they look at what they see and evaluate for themselves: The blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. If someone as close to Jesus as John had to ask, we can forgive ourselves if at times we wonder about Jesus' saving power in our own lives. Like the disciples of John, we're challenged to figure out for ourselves by examining the evidence—in scripture, in prayer, and in our lives and the lives of loved ones. Jesus doesn't force himself on us; he trusts we have the smarts to see for ourselves.

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (7). *"Go and tell John what you hear and see."*

## Monday, Dec 15, 2025

### A vision of hope

Children and prophets see things others don't. The prophet Balaam saw beyond the injustice of his own generation to a time when the nation would be led by a great king who would arise in Israel. We too are called to see with that same prophetic clarity—the clear-eyed wonder of a child who perceives hope where others see only hardship. Consider the hope that comes with a little baby born in a manger as Saint Alphonsus describes it: "Mary invites all, rich and poor, just and sinners, to enter the cave of Bethlehem, to adore and to kiss the feet of her newborn Son. Go in, then, all ye devout souls; go and see the Creator of heaven and earth on a little hay, under the form of a little Infant; but so beautiful that he sheds all around rays of light. Now that he is born and is lying on the straw, the cave is no longer horrible, but is become a paradise."

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 (187). *"I see him, though not now; I behold him, though not near."*

## Tuesday, Dec 16, 2025

### Permission to enter

Today begins the traditional Mexican festival of Las Posadas, a commemoration of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Customarily neighbors gather together in a procession led by a child in angel's garb and statues of the Holy Family. Together they seek out shelter at three local houses, only to be accepted at the last, where the family hosts a celebration. Seeking to share the path of the Holy Family places one in the vulnerable position of begging entrance into another's home. Remember that vulnerability when you seek to enter the shelter of God's kingdom. For quick reference, think of Saint Augustine's answer to the question of the most essential elements of Christ's teaching: "The first is humility, the second is humility, and the third is humility."

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY; LAS POSADAS BEGINS

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188). *"Jesus said to them, 'Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God before you.'"*

## Wednesday, Dec 17, 2025

### Give me an O!

These days before Christmas are a time of final preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. To mark this time the church prays the "O Antiphons." An antiphon, from the Greek word for "responsively," is a short prayer after psalms or biblical songs. They come up in the Liturgy of the Hours, but you also pray a kind of antiphon every Sunday: the psalm response between the first and

second readings. We add the O Antiphons—so called because they all begin with "O"—to evening prayer to make this time before Christmas special. Drawn from Hebrew scripture, each of them helps us to understand Jesus. Time to get to know your Os.

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM)

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). *"O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love; come to teach us the path of knowledge!"*

## Thursday, Dec 18, 2025

### Power to the people

The word *righteousness* may sound a little quaint these days, but the concept behind the word is central to an understanding of what God asks of us. The Hebrew word it corresponds to appears more than 500 times in the Old Testament, and the Greek word it corresponds to more than 200 times in the New Testament. Righteousness is chiefly concerned with ethical conduct: It implies faithfully keeping promises, treating people justly, and adhering to a high moral code. With justice of righteousness, "faith, hope, and charity are poured into our hearts," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "and obedience to the divine will is granted us." We have the power to be obedient to God's will; why not use it?

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY (O SACRED LORD)

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). *"O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!"*

## Friday, Dec 19, 2025

### Where to find true royalty

When it came time for the prophet Samuel to anoint a new king to replace Saul, God instructed Samuel to invite Jesse and his many sons to a sacrifice. When Jesse paraded his boys in review before the prophet, God told Samuel that not the oldest, the tallest, nor the most kingly looking were the leader God sought; the next king was to be David, the youngest and lowliest, whom Jesse left tending the flocks and did not even bother to bring along. "The Lord," God says, "does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." If you look past appearances to the hearts of others, you're likely to find true royalty, namely the Prince of Peace.

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). *"O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!"*

## Saturday, Dec 20, 2025

### What's inside?

Some years ago, Saint Teresa of Calcutta visited the neonatal intensive care unit of a Boston hospital. As she walked through the doors of the unit, the machines that usually hum and buzz and beep somehow stopped making noise, and every single baby fell silent. Mother Teresa stopped at each crib, spoke with the nurses and parents, had her picture taken holding a premature infant in the palm of her hand, and left. As the doors closed behind her, the usual cacophony of the unit resumed unabated. The calm that surrounded Mother Teresa was a reflection of the peace in her heart. Advent is a good time to notice our own interior state and how it's reflected in the world around us.

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KEY OF DAVID)

Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). *"O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!"*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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Holly Magister, Christine Pacifico, Paul Rockar & Lloyd Wolf

### Office Hours

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Friday 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

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Bill McHugh, Jerry Soles & Diana Tranchini

### Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM



**Mother of Sorrows Regional Catholic School**

**Darcie Gatti, Principal**

*dgatti@mosschool.org*

724-733-8840

TOPS scholarships available:

[www.catholicschoolsguide.org](http://www.catholicschoolsguide.org)





We commend to  
your prayers Joseph  
Buechel, Theresa Ejzak,  
Rosalie Lesser and  
Catherine McCashin,

who died recently. May God  
welcome them to the joys of  
Paradise and bring comfort and  
peace to their families.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Middle School Youth  
Ministry will meet **Wednesday,**  
**December 17** from 6:00 to  
8:00 PM in the St. John Social Hall.

### COMING HOME ROSARY

Many of us know family,  
friends and loved ones who are not  
in full communion with the Church.  
All who desire family, friends and  
loved ones to enter more deeply  
into the interior life of the Church  
are invited to come and pray with  
us on **Thursday, December 18** at  
**5:00 PM** in Mother of Sorrows  
Church.

### SERVICE PROJECT

All Faith Formation students  
are invited to participate in a  
service project on **Sunday,**  
**December 28** in the Social Hall  
after the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM  
Masses.



### BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

If you are planning  
to have your baby baptized at MOS,  
St. John or St. Mary, join us for our  
upcoming Baptism Preparation  
Class on **Sunday, January 11** at  
10:30 AM in the Ave Maria Room  
at Mother of Sorrows Parish.

## MOS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### Saturday 12/13

9:00 AM **Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
4:30 PM † Dolores Tomko (*Cala & Donahoe Families*)

### Sunday 12/14 Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM † Stephen Gipson (*Denise, Grant & Meredith*)  
9:30 AM † Frederick Certo (*Certo Family*)  
11:30 AM † William O'Connor (*Martha O'Connor*)  
12:30 PM **Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick**  
4:00 PM Blue Christmas Service  
6:00 PM For the Parish

### Monday 12/15

8:00 AM † Ed Peduzzi (*Marie & John Shimshock*)

### Tuesday 12/16

8:00 AM † Richard Pollack (*Nick & Kathy Barsic*)

### Wednesday 12/17

8:00 AM † Ed Peduzzi (*Sally & Dan Romito*)

### Thursday 12/18

9:00 AM † Cindi Aiello (*Mary Margaret & Joe Hohman*)  
11:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration  
5:30 PM Taizé  
6:00 PM Benediction and Reposition  
of the Blessed Sacrament

### Friday 12/19

8:00 AM † Dennis F. Lewandowski  
(*Wife, Judy & Children Michael & Kristen*)

### Saturday 12/20

9:00 AM **Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
4:30 PM † Steven Wakefield (*Linda Wakefield*)

### Sunday 12/21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM For the Parish  
9:30 AM † Trish Koval (*Husband, Ray*)  
11:30 AM † Joe Purdue (*Mom, Dad, Nick & Kate*)  
6:00 PM † Jose & Fabiana Portacio  
(*Nick & Maria Grado*)

## OUR WEEKLY NUMBERS

Due to early submission deadlines set by the publisher, offertory numbers for December 6 and 7 will be available in next Sunday's bulletin.



**MOS**



**ST. JOHN**



**ST. MARY**

## END OF YEAR GIVING

Many people enjoy using Christmas and the year's end as a special time to give to the church and also positively impact their federal and state income taxes. Christmas and year-end giving provide many advantages to the donor:

- All gifts made are tax deductible.
- This is a final opportunity to make that special gift or increased gift that you've wanted to make all during the year.
- A gift to the church celebrates the joy of Christmas by giving in the spirit of the season.
- Your gift will assist in advancing the mission of the Church.
- Most importantly, your gift provides the opportunity to make a return to God for His blessings at Christmas.

We are all given just a few short years on earth. Sharing your blessings through a generous gift at Christmas will make this world just a little better because you made a difference. Remember that God is never outdone in His generosity.

## A PEEK AT THE WEEK...

Sunday		December 14
8:30 AM	MOS	Faith Formation for those with special needs, Ave Maria Room
7:00 PM	MOS	High School Youth Ministry, Social Hall
Monday		December 15
6:30 PM	MOS	Cub Scouts, Social Hall
Tuesday		December 16
10:00 AM	MOS	Staff Meeting, Conference Room
Wednesday		December 17
9:30 AM	MOS	Women's Bible Study, Ave Maria Room
6:00 PM	SJ	Middle School Youth Ministry, St. John Social Hall
Thursday		December 18
7:00 PM	MOS	High School Youth Ministry
Friday		December 19
9:00 AM	MOS	Centering Prayer, Madonna Room
Saturday		December 20
7:00 AM	SM	Catholic Men's Fellowship, St. Mary Social Hall
9:00 AM	MOS	Men's Renewal Group, Ave Maria Room
Sunday		December 21
8:30 AM	MOS	Faith Formation for those with special needs, Ave Maria Room
4:30 PM	MOS	Becoming Catholic, Ave Maria Room

## STEWARDSHIP NOTES

*"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." James 5:8*

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

## ST. JOHN AND ST. MARY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

## DECORATORS NEEDED

# LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

## FUNERAL MINISTERS NEEDED

Consider becoming a Funeral Minister. St. John and St. Mary are in need of sacristans, greeters, lectors and altar servers to help at parish funerals. Training will be provided. If you are interested in joining this fulfilling ministry, please call the Parish Office at 724-327-0647.



ONLINE GIVING OPTION NOW  
AVAILABLE, VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE  
[www.stjohnstmary.net](http://www.stjohnstmary.net)

**Saturday 12/13**

12:00 NN SJ      **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

4:00 PM SJ      † Ninette Limpo  
(*Lorenza & Nick Grado*)

**Sunday      12/14      Third Sunday of Advent**

9:00 AM SM     †     Carolyn Thatcher (*Mom & Dad*)  
11:00 AM SJ     For the Parish

**Monday 12/15**

8:30 AM SM † Ed Cigich (*Debbie Frescura*)

**Tuesday 12/16**

8:30 AM SJ	†	Sandra Oravec ( <i>Bob &amp; Gayle Kunko</i> )
12:00 NN SM		Eucharistic Adoration
5:00 PM SM		<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>
6:00 PM SM		Benediction and Reposition

**Wednesday 12/17**

8:05 AM SM		Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
8:30 AM SM	†	Esolina Bellisario ( <i>Sister, Maria &amp; Giuseppe Gulli &amp; Family</i> )

## Thursday 12/18

8:10 AM SJ	St. Joseph Novena
8:30 AM SJ	† Robert Henninger (Donna & Linda Kuchar)

Friday 12/19

8:30 AM SM † Louis M. Intrieri (*Mazur Family*)

**Saturday 12/20**

12:00 NN SJ		<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>
4:00 PM SJ	†	Joseph Tomkovicz <i>(Jean Tomkovicz &amp; Family)</i>

**Sunday      12/21      Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:00 AM SM	†	Carl & Geni Casale & Mary Gregory (Family)
11:00 AM SJ		For the Parish

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

'Tis the season to be jolly, as the song goes. But even if the jolly gene has managed to escape you, or this particular season finds you with plenty of specific reasons not to be happy, there is cause for rejoicing today, here and now, as the Word of God tells us. In fact, we Christians are called to the vocation of joy, a fruit of the Holy Spirit not dependent on our present circumstances or our emotional frame of mind.

**That's why the third candle of the Advent wreath is rose colored today, and why the church year includes a day called Gaudete Sunday, which means "rejoice." We are called to rejoice, even though it's not Christmas yet. We are invited to joy, even though the fulfillment of our hope is yet to be realized. Without seeing, we believe.**

The prophet Zephaniah proclaims a message of hope and joy, despite the fact that we often associate the prophets with doom and gloom. We also have the stern Saint Paul, who often used his letters to castigate and cajole his new Christian converts, tell the Philippians to rejoice because the Lord is so near. Even John the Baptizer's words in the gospel, words of challenge and of exhortation, are called "good news" by the end of the passage.

So, why all of this joyful anticipation? Because Christ has come and we look for him to come again. But we also know that each time we gather, Christ is present in our assembly, in Word, in Sacrament and in us. And because of this, day in and day out, we rejoice!

***Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I shall say it again: rejoice!  
Your kindness should be known to all.  
The Lord is near.  
Have no anxiety at all.***



### BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI

All families of MOS, St. Mary and St. John are invited to bring their Bambinelli, the small baby Jesus figurine from the home nativity set, to Mass next weekend, **December 20 and 21** for a special blessing.

Come share in this beautiful tradition as we prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of Christ.

### BLUE CHRISTMAS LITURGY

As we approach the darkest night of the year, we are aware that the holidays can be difficult for any number of reasons. The Blue Christmas Liturgy allows people to acknowledge their sense of loss or pain and the shadow it casts over the holiday season.

Join us at Mother of Sorrows Parish on **Sunday, December 14** at 4:00 PM as we stand by one another during life's difficult seasons.

### ADVENT TAIZÉ PRAYER



Taizé is a distinctive style of meditative prayer developed by an ecumenical community of monks in rural France.

This quiet, moving, reflective prayer combines elements of the Church's traditional Liturgy of the Hours with elements of contemplative meditation.

All parishioners from St. John, St. Mary and MOS are invited to join us at Mother of Sorrows Church at 5:30 PM on **Thursday, December 18.**

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

<b>December 24</b>	Vigil of Christmas	4:00 PM (Church) & 4:00 PM (Hall) - MOS
	Vigil of Christmas	4:00 PM - St. John, Delmont
	Vigil of Christmas	6:00 PM - Mother of Sorrows
<b>December 25</b>	Mass at Night	12:00 MN - Mother of Sorrows
	Mass at Night	12:00 MN - St. Mary, Export
	Mass at Dawn	9:00 AM - St. Mary, Export
	Mass at Dawn	9:30 AM - Mother of Sorrows
	Christmas Mass	10:00 AM - St. John, Delmont
	Christmas Mass	11:30 AM - Mother of Sorrows

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Jesus entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to the Church. The Sacrament of Penance is God's gift of mercy to us so that any sin committed after Baptism can be forgiven. In this sacrament we have the opportunity to repent and recover the grace of friendship with God. It is a holy moment in which we place ourselves in God's presence and honestly acknowledge our sins. Receiving absolution, we are reconciled to God and the Church.

As we anticipate the Jubilee Year in 2025, parishes in the region will no longer have a communal Penance Service prior to the celebration of the Sacrament. Instead, there will be several priests hearing confessions from 6:00PM – 8:00 PM (12:00 NN to 2:00 PM at St. John). It is our hope that allowing more time for confession, we might be better able to experience the joy that comes from being freed from whatever separates us from God, who seeks to lavish upon us the same forgiveness and love lavished on the prodigal son.

Renewed, refreshed and reconciled in this sacrament once more, we are once more we are made new. It is this newness of spirit and soul that we hope that all of us will experience time and again in the sacrament of Penance. All are invited to celebrate the gifts of God's mercy this Advent at the following times and places.

Tuesday,	December 16	6:00 – 8:00 PM	St. Regis, Trafford
Wednesday,	December 17	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Mother of Sorrows, Murrysville
Thursday,	December 18	6:00 – 8:00 PM	St. Barbara, Harrison City
Saturday,	December 20	12:00 – 2:00 PM	St. John, Delmont

**EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE****How have I failed to worship God in private and communal prayer?**

Do I receive the sacraments regularly?

Do I keep Sundays and holy days sacred?

Do I value the sacrament of reconciliation? Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin, to turn again to God and to begin a new life in deeper friendship with God?

Have I tried to grow in my faith through prayer and the reading of the word of God?

Do I pray daily?

Do I trust God's goodness and providence, even in times of crisis and doubt?

**How have I failed to use the gifts of God in daily living?**

Do I respect my own body as a gift from God?

Do I control my vices, including abuses of food and drink?

Have I made good use of the gifts God has given me?

Do I work too hard and too long? Do I neglect my family and health?

Have I been lazy and given too much time to leisure or entertainment?

**How have I failed in my relationships with others?**

In my household, have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of my family?

Am I patient? Am I loving?

Do I treat my parents [children] with respect?

Am I ever angry with those I love?

Have I been faithful in my relationships?

Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their freedom and rights? Am I intolerant of other's ideas or needs?

Have I perpetuated racism, prejudices and stereotypes?

Do I treat people with disabilities with respect?

Have I indulged in reading, conversation, or entertainments that are contrary to Christian decency and respect for human life?

**Have I failed to share God's love with the world?**

Do I share my time and my treasure with others in need?

When I saw someone hungry, did I give them food?

When I saw someone thirsty, did I give them drink?

When I saw someone needing clothing, did I clothe them?

When I saw a stranger, did I welcome them?

When someone was homebound or imprisoned, did I visit them?

When someone was ill, did I care for them?

Do I fail to speak out on behalf of the poor or the oppressed?

Do I use the earth's resources wisely?





The 2026 March for Life in Washington D.C. will take place on **Friday, January 23, 2026**. The bus will leave Mother of Sorrows Parish at 5:30 AM. The trip will include Mass at the National Basilica in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at 10:30 AM celebrated by Bishop Larry Kulick. A quick stop will be made on the

way to Washington D.C. and a stop will be made on the way home for dinner at the Valley Mall in Hagerstown, MD. The bus should arrive back to MOS around 11:00 PM.

Register soon, as the bus fills up quickly! Email Barb Koury at [barbkoury@gmail.com](mailto:barbkoury@gmail.com) with your name and a your cell phone number. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for students and is payable on the bus or in the Parish Office.

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

All women of MOS, St. John and St. Mary Parishes are invited to the annual Women's Retreat **January 16 - 18, 2026** at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Pittsburgh.

This year's theme is Pray Always/ Pray All Ways. This Women's Retreat provides a wonderful opportunity to step away from your busy life and spend a weekend focused on God.

The Retreat begins with a Friday evening Mass and ends Sunday at noon. Activities include daily Mass, speakers, and workshops or you may choose to spend solitary time in prayer and reflection. You will have the opportunity for Reconciliation, Adoration and fellowship.

To register, call 412-381-7676 or visit our website at [motherofsorrowschurch.org](http://motherofsorrowschurch.org) and click on the image of the ad under the 'Upcoming Events' section.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ULTRASOUND PROJECT

There is an urgent need to replace four ultrasound units at three of the Life Choice locations within the Diocese of Greensburg. Each unit costs \$28,000. 80% of women who have an ultrasound end up going to full term.

The Knights of Columbus will be selling raffle tickets for \$10 for a chance to win \$5,000 after Masses on December 14. The drawing will take place January 1, 2026.

If you would like to make a donation to the Ultrasound Project, please contact Don Granata at 724-468-1808.

### ST. ANNE HOME LOTTERY CALENDARS

St. Anne Home Lottery Calendars are available for sale. There is a chance to win any day of the new year from \$30 to \$500. The calendars are available for \$30 in the MOS Parish Office, or by calling Don Granata at 724-468-1808.

## MOS OUTREACH

### WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

The Catholic Men's Fellowship of Western PA is organizing a winter clothing collection for homeless men. Items needed include men's jeans, hoodies, boots, winter coats, wool caps, socks and gloves. Donations will benefit homeless men served at the Red Door at St. Mary of Mercy Catholic Church in Pittsburgh. Please place the men's clothing in the deck boxes outside the Social Hall from **December 8 until December 22**.

### PEN PAL MINISTRY

Do you enjoy writing letters? Would you like to make a difference in someone's life? The MOS Pen Pal ministry is in need of 8 individuals or families to send a monthly note or card to a local nursing home resident. For more information, contact Raissa at [rsvpfederline@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpfederline@gmail.com) or 412-953-8206.

## MINISTRY OF CARE

What is the Ministry of Care? It is a group of people who have been trained and commissioned to visit with, pray with and bring the Eucharist to those in our parish who are sick and unable to attend Mass; those who are homebound, in the hospital or in a nursing home.

We have several Ministers of Care available to bring Holy Communion to the homebound. For more information, please contact Brooke at [btognarina@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:btognarina@dioceseofgreensburg.org) or 724-733-8870. Some other opportunities to minister include joining the Nursing Home Ministry or visiting parishioners for a social visit.

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### Blood Drive

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**Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

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### NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

Last month, MOS, St. Mary and St. John parishes sent 25 students to the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis where they joined 16,000 other students to pray, receive sacraments, hear from incredible Catholic speakers, meet priests/religious from 30+ orders and have a live video call with Pope Leo.



### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Last Sunday, High School Youth Ministry held the final Evening of Encounter for the semester. The topic of discussion was service, followed by a holy hour with music and an opportunity for adoration and confession.

On **Sunday, December 14**, we will hold our annual Christmas Party with lots of fun and games, a crazy gift exchange and good things to eat. Please come and bring a friend! We will gather in the Social Hall from **7:00 to 9:00 PM**.



## EMERGENCY REPAIRS AT MOTHER OF SORROWS CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Earlier this year, we needed to repair the roof on the school gym because of leaks in the 20 year old flat roof. The repair was to seal and apply a new liquid seamless system to the roof which has a 50 year material warranty. The cost of the new gym roof was \$66,700.

We recently discovered that another two sections of the school roof were beginning to fail, causing leaks in a couple of the classrooms. We are in the process of installing a similar liquid roofing system with a 50 year material warranty on these two sections at a cost of \$85,750.

There is still another section of the roof, over the original school building, that will eventually need to be replaced.

An underground leak was also discovered in the gas line coming into the church building near the rear entrance to the Social Hall. This potential hazard was repaired last week at a cost of \$14,325.

Thanks to the generosity and faithful stewardship of our parishioners in both the Sunday offertory and the Diocesan Lenten Appeal, we were able to fund these repairs. Many thanks for your support!



## MOTHER OF SORROWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



### SOUP SALE

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Soups will be ready for pick up 1/16 at the school.

Sold by the quart for \$10.00  
proceeds will be used towards  
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Prayer partners from Mrs. Rodrigues' seventh grade collaborated with Mrs. Smart's third graders to work on an Advent project.

Students solved puzzles to create a portion of a stained glass window that celebrates the hope of the season.



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